

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

FBO-01 OC-06 OPR-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 SCCT-02 SY-03 DRC-01

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R 111400Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2447

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PINR, MZ

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS IN NAMPULA AGAINST BISHOP

REF(A) LOURENCO MARQUES 201; (B) ROME 4906

1. NOTICIAS OF APRIL 11 REPORTS DEMONSTRATIONS IN NAMPULA
BY CROWDS DEMANDING REMOVAL OF BISHOP MANUEL VIEIRA PINTO
TOGETHER WITH THE SIX PRIESTS WHO HAD DRAFTED ANTI-GOVERNMENT
PETITION REPORTED REF A.

2. NOTICIAS ARTICLE (WHICH WAS FRONTPAGED RIGHT NEXT TO
REPORT THAT PAPAL NUNCIO SENSI HAD ARRIVED IN LUANDA COMING
FROM LOURENCO MARQUES) REPORTED THAT DEMONSTRATIONS BEGAN
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AROUND 2030 HRS. APRIL 9 IN FRONT OF CATHEDRAL WHERE NOISY

CROWD DEMANDED TO SEE THE BISHOP. CROWD THEN PROCEEDED TO GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE WHERE IT WAS BLOCKED BY POLICE FORCE (WITHOUT MILITARY INTERVENTION AS HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY REPORTED), FOLLOWING WHICH CROWD PROCEEDED TO SAO PEDRO MISSION WHERE COMBONIAN MISSIONARIES LIVE. CROWD BROKE SOME WINDOWS AND LATER PROCEEDED TO CATECHETICAL CENTER OF ANCHILO, 20 KM. FROM NAMPULA ON ROAD TO NACALA, WHERE THEY BROKE MORE WINDOWS. RETURNING TO NAMPULA, DEMONSTRATORS DROVE THROUGH CITY STREETS HONKING HORNS UNTIL EARLY HOURS OF MORNING. POLICE "MAINTAINED CONTROL" OVER DEMONSTRATORS "WITHOUT DIRECTLY INTERVENING."

3. ON APRIL 10, NAMPULA STORES AND BANKS WERE KEPT SHUT AND BUSINESS STOPPED IN PROTEST AGAINST BISHOP'S PRESENCE. AT 1030, SEVERAL THOUSANDS GATHERED OUTSIDE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE DEMANDING THAT URGENT MEASURES BE TAKEN AND RE-AFFIRMING PATRIOTIC SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AGAINST "THE COMMON ENEMY: FRELIMO." GOVERNOR GAMA AMARAL, ACCOMPANIED BY POLICE COMMISSIONER, PROCEEDED TO BISHOP'S RESIDENCE WHERE HE INFORMED LATTER OF DISSATISFACTION REIGNING IN CITY. AS RESULT, BISHOP, ACCOMPANIED BY THE SIX PRIESTS LINKED WITH PETITION OPPOSED TO THE OVERSEAS POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT, EMBARKED IN TWO AIR TAXIS FOR THE SOUTH OF MOZAMBIQUE. SITUATION IN NAMPULA NORMALIZED TOWARDS EVENING AND CALM REESTABLISHED.

4. COMMENT: UNDER GUIDANCE OF PAPAL NUNCIO, MOZAMBIQUE'S EPISCOPATE HAD MADE VALIANT EFFORT DURING PAST TWO WEEKS TO PAPER OVER CONTROVERSY SET OFF BY PETITION REPORTED REF A. EFFORT CULMINATED IN ISSUANCE ON APRIL 4 OF VAGUELY WORDED COMMUNIQUE, SIGNED BY ALL BISHOPS INCLUDING VIEIRA PINTO, REAFFIRMING FAITH AND UNITY OF CHURCH, PLEADING FOR RE-CONCILIATION OF DIFFERENCES, FOR AN END TO PAST SAD ORDEALS, AND FOR GROWING UNDERSTANDING AMONG ALL PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE. DESPITE THIS EFFORT, IT APPEARS PROBABLE THAT BISHOP OF NAMPULA WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE CARRY OUT HIS FUNCTIONS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL PUSH FOR HIS OUTRIGHT REMOVAL, OR WILL ALLOW HIM TO STAY ON, BUT KEPT OUT OF HARM'S WAY UNTIL PASSIONS COOL. IF, AS MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE, YESTERDAY'S DEMONSTRATIONS, LIKE THOSE AT AIRPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON MARCH 20, WERE ENGINEERED BY DGS (SECURITY POLICE) AND/OR MILITARY, DECISION TO EXPELL HIM WOULD APPEAR ALREADY TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN. HOWEVER, IF A PRELATE OF VIEIRA PINTO'S FAVORABLE REPUTATION AND WIDE SUPPORT SHOULD BE FORCED OUT, THERE IS BOUND TO BE SERIOUS REACTION FROM MANY OTHER CATHOLIC CLERGY, PERHAPS LEADING AS VATICAN FEARS (REF B) TO MASS EXODUS OF FOREIGN CLERGY FROM MOZAMBIQUE -- A DEVELOPMENT DGS, MILITARY AND POSSIBLY OTHER ELEMENTS OF

GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE HAPPY TO WITNESS, REGARDLESS OF ADVERSE
REPERCUSSIONS ABROAD, BUT WHICH GOVERNOR GENERAL, OTHER
STAUNCH CHURCH-GOERS AND THOSE MORE SENSITIVE TO WORLD
OPINION WOULD DOUBTLESS DEPLORE.
VAN OSS

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Message Attributes

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